

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 /077 W  
----- 096025

R 281116Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4540

OSAF/SAFIL

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

ASD/YP WPAFB OHIO

CSAF/RDP WASHDC

AFSC/SD ANDREWS AFB MD

CSAF/CVAFI WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 6787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: MNFP/F-16; LEGAL STATUS OF ESPO

1. FOLLOWING UP ON USAF ASST SECRETARY SHRONTZ' JULY 11 DISCUSSION WITH STEERING COMMITTEE, WE HAVE DISCUSSED STATUS OF MNFP/F-16 EUROPEAN SYSTEM PROGRAM OFFICE (ESPO) WITH BELGIAN DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES.

2. OUR PURPOSE WAS TO OBTAIN BELGIAN AGREEMENT TO THE FASTEST, SIMPLEST AND MOST EQUITABLE TO ALL FIVE COUNTRIES SYSTEM POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH ESPO IN BRUSSELS AND AT THE SAME TIME ENSURE THAT TREATMENT FOR EUROPEAN F-16 PROGRAM OFFICERS IN THE US BE THE SAME. WE WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT US OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO ESPO BENEFIT FROM MAXIMUM PRIVILEGES WHILE POSTED HERE AND TO AVOID THE SORT OF TAX PROBLEMS WE ARE CURRENTLY ENCOUNTERING WITH SOME SHAPE-ADMINISTERED PERSONNEL.

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3. FOLLOWING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIANS WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT BEST STATUS FOR ESPO PERSONNEL WOULD DERIVE FROM THEIR RECEIVING THE STATUS OF NON-DIPLOMATIC LIST (PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO) EMBASSY. THIS REQUIRES NO NEW AGREEMENT AND GRANTS ESPO PERSONNEL ALL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES GRANTED TO THOSE ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST, WITH ONLY TWO MINOR DIFFERENCES EXPLAINED IN BRUSSELS 6364. UNDER THIS SYSTEM, EMBASSY WILL ROUTINELY NOTIFY FOREIGN MINISTRY OF ARRIVAL OF US ESPO PERSONNEL FOR ID CARD AND OTHER PURPOSES. BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL DO THE SAME, AS WILL DANISH, DUTCH AND NORWEGIAN EMBASSIES IN BRUSSELS AND WASHINGTON IF THEY GO ALONG WITH SYSTEM WORKED OUT.

4. NOTE THAT ALL US PERSONNEL, WHETHER BELONGING TO US ELEMENT OF ESPO OR DIRECTLY ASSIGNED TO YET-TO-BE-DESIGNATED SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE HANDLED IN THIS WAY, GUARANTEEING EQUAL TREATMENT. BELGIANS MAY ACCORD SEC GEN FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

5. SYSTEM OUTLINED ABOVE WILL BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT FA-16 ADMINISTRATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN DAYTON (11 AUG 75) SO THAT DANES, DUTCH AND NORWEGIANS ARE AWARE OF IT AND CAN TAKE SIMILAR ACTION THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RECIPROCATATE IN GRANTING SAME STATUS TO EUROPEAN OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO F-16SPO IN THE US. FIRESTONE

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